

**Read the following paragraph taken from chapter 8 of The Outsiders:**

Sixteen years on the streets and you can learn a lot. But all the wrong things, not the things you want to learn. Sixteen years on the streets and you see a lot. But all the wrong sights, not the sights you want to see.

**Now, read this excerpt taken from the short story, "On The Sidewalk Bleeding":**

He knew he was going to die now. That made him suddenly sad. He was filled with sadness that his life would be over at sixteen. He felt all at once as if he had never done anything, never seen anything, never been anywhere. There were so many things to do. He wondered why he'd never thought of them before, wondered why the rumbles and the jumps and the purple jackets had always seemed so important to him before. Now they seemed like such small things in a world he was missing, a world that was rushing past at the other end of the alley.

**Pretend you are Johnny or Andy. Write two paragraphs from his perspective about what this quote from the book or the short story means.**